

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652:N/A

SUBJECT:UNITED STATES NOTE CONCERNING ATLANTIC BLUEFIN
TUNA.

1. THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) REQUIRE THAT
ANY CONSERVATION PROPOSALS MADE BY MEMBER COUNTRIES BE
CIRCULATED AND EXPLAINED TO OTHER MEMBERS 60 DAYS PRIOR TO
A MEETING. THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO MAKE SOME PROPOSALS
CONCERNING ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA AT THE MEETING OF THE ICCAT
COUNCIL, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MADRID ON NOVEMBER 20.

2. ACCORDINGLY, DEPT. WOULD LIKE THE FOLLOWING NOTE TO BE
GIVEN TO DR. O. RODRIQUEZ MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
ICCAT, (ADDRESS GENERAL MOLA, 17, MADRID 1) FOR HIS TRANS-
MITTAL TO ICCAT MEMBER COUNTRIES. PLEASE NOTE TO MARTIN
THAT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS MUST BE DONE BY
OCTOBER 20 IN ORDER TO MEET 60-DAY REQUIREMENT. DEPT WOULD
APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS PROCEDURE IS ACCEPTABLE
TO MARTIN AND THAT DEADLINE CAN BE MET.

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3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UNITED STATES NOTE:

UNITED STATES NOTE CONCERNING (UNDERScore)
ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA (UNDERScore)

RULE 8 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF ICCAT REQUIRES ANY PROPOSAL CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER ARTICLE VIII, PARAGRAPH 1, OF THE CONVENTION TO BE DISCUSSED IN AN EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES AT LEAST 60 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE FIXED FOR THE OPENING OF THE MEETING. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS RULE THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO REPORT THAT IT INTENDS TO PROPOSE, DURING THE THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE ICCAT COUNCIL IN MADRID BEGINNING NOVEMBER 20, RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF THE NORTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA (THUNNUS THYNNUS THYNNUS) UNDERScore OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

AT THE THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION, HELD IN PARIS, NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4, 1973, THE UNITED STATES EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER THE STATUS OF THE STOCKS OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA. WE NOTED AT THAT TIME THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS HAS REMARKED ON CERTAIN DISTURBING ELEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH VARIOUS BLUEFIN FISHERIES IN THE ATLANTIC. MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE URGED TO REDUCE THE CATCH OF LARGE BLUEFIN TUNA AS WELL AS OF VERY SMALL BLUEFIN TUNA IN ORDER TO IMPROVE STOCK CONDITIONS AND PROTECT SPAWNING POTENTIAL.

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT FORMAL ACTION BY THE COMMISSION WILL GREATLY FACILITATE THE EFFORTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE. WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT PRIOR TO THE ICCAT COUNCIL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 1974 THE CONDITION OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOTH IN THE ICCAT STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS AND IN THE ICCAT/ICES JOINT WORKING PARTY ON BLUEFIN TUNA.

ACCORDINGLY, THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO PROPOSE AT THE MEETING OF PANEL 2 THAT WILL BE HELD DURING THE THIRD UNCLASSIFIED

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WHATEVER CONSERVATION MEASURES SEEM WARRANTED BY AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA. THESE MEASURES COULD INCLUDE CATCH RESTRICTIONS DESIGNED TO ATTEMPT AT A MINIMUM TO MAINTAIN STOCKS AT EXISTING LEVELS. OTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES WHICH THE UNITED STATES MAY PROPOSE INCLUDE SIZE LIMIT RECOMMENDATIONS.

WE ANTICIPATE THAT PANEL 2 COULD FORMALLY RECOMMEND REGULATORY PROPOSALS WHICH COULD THEN BE REFERRED TO THE FULL COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL THROUGH A MAIL VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ICCAT RULE OF PROCEDURE 9 (8).

THE UNITED STATES WILL ONLY MAKE THOSE CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH IT BELIEVES CAN BE SUPPORTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AVAILABLE, AND HOPES THAT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS WITH RESPECT TO ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA WILL BE SUPPORTED AT THE 1974 ICCAT COUNCIL MEETING BY ALL COUNTRIES FISHING FOR THIS SPECIES. KISSINGER

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